



The Grader

A-F Subcommittee, New A-F Legislation

On Monday, September 28, the State Board of Education A-F Subcommittee convened a public meeting with ADE staff to discuss next steps and progress toward a report to outline proposed changes to A.R.S. 15-241. In October, members of the A-F subcommittee will review a white paper prior to the final report due to the Governor's office and Legislature in December 2015. ADE will work with the A-F subcommittee's focus group as well as its Accountability Advisory Group in order to prepare a report which will be available to the public upon submission to the A-F Subcommittee.

- ⇒ October – A-F subcommittee reviews and discusses white paper prepared by ADE
- ⇒ November – ADE presents draft report and final recommendations to label schools during the 2015 and 2016 school years
- ⇒ December – White paper/report due to Governor's Office and Legislature for consideration to revise ARS 15-241 (A-F Accountability System).

AzMERIT Results EMBARGO

The Department recently finalized the decision to embargo all **aggregated** AzMERIT results. As was the case with the previous AIMS embargos, the AzMERIT embargo will not apply to individual student results and results can be shared as needed for making educational decisions with educators, parents, etc. While embargoed, AzMERIT results are not to be shared publicly or with the media. Student-detail assessment data are not subject to public records request and/or media request requirements. Regardless of data embargoes, please ensure everyone in the school and LEA complies with FERPA at all times. The embargo will end when the Department releases statewide AzMERIT results to the public and the media. These results will be released on the azreportcards.com website as well as posted on the ADE website in a manner consistent with AIMS reporting in the past. The Department anticipates releasing the results November 30, 2015. Schools and LEAs may not release any aggregated data (i.e., XX% of our students passed) prior to the embargo.

The ADE will aggregate student performance data after schools have had the opportunity to address any necessary data corrections; the department may not report data for schools which fail to correct significant data issues prior to the corrections timeline. AzMERIT data cannot be corrected in the former SAIS ID corrections application in CommonLogon which only includes AIMS data.

In this Issue:

- AzMERIT embargo
- SBE A-F Subcommittee
 - Reporting AzMERIT results
- 2016 Alternative School Status
- ELL students & SPED withdrawals
- FAQs

AzMERIT Results: Reporting vs. Accountability

The AzMERIT vendor will deliver test results from the 2015 test administration to both schools as well as the ADE on October 6th. As ADE converts its internal reporting mechanisms, schools will be able to use the vendor provided file to assess their own school performance data. However, ADE will not report any statewide AzMERIT results at the school or district level until the end of November. Although ADE typically reported AIMS results annually, these annual results have differed slightly from what was used for school accountability purposes. Data received from the vendor serve as a reliable estimate of how or what will be publicly reported by the Department on behalf of the school.

However, the Department releases the official results to the media and public regardless of what schools may report independently to their own governing board and LEA personnel; the Department's official report may differ from a school or district's own estimates for a number of reasons. For accountability purposes, school level proficiency rates will be released again in order to reflect FAY students only as well as inclusion of the alternative assessment, NCSC.

PUBLIC REPORTING	ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTING
Includes FAY & NON FAY students	Observes FAY, inclusion criteria based on school type
Includes all valid test records	Includes only test records matched to students with a valid enrollment
Includes AzMERIT results only	Includes AzMERIT and NCSC
Planned release in November/December 2015	Planned release in January/February 2016
NCSC results, accommodations reported separately	May impact school's improvement status
Reported to public & media via AZ Report Cards	Reported via secure environment to school/LEA administrators

2015-2016 Alternative School Status

The 2015-2016 application to recertify or apply for 2016 alternative school status will open on October 1. All schools, including those which wish to continue their alternative status from 2015 into the new school year must recertify by filling out and submitting the application materials online no later than January 1, 2016. Schools which wish to consider alternative school status for the first time beginning with the 2015-2016 school year must provide all requested information. **Due to the extensive length of the window AND the effort/resources required for ADE to process all new applications, no applications will be accepted after January 2.** Schools will be notified of their alternative school status by May 2016. Schools must request a credit recovery exemption

⇒ **October 1, 2015: Application window opens**

⇒ **January 2, 2016: Application window closes**

⇒ **No later than May 2016: Schools notified**

Administering AZELLA Tests

Placement Tests

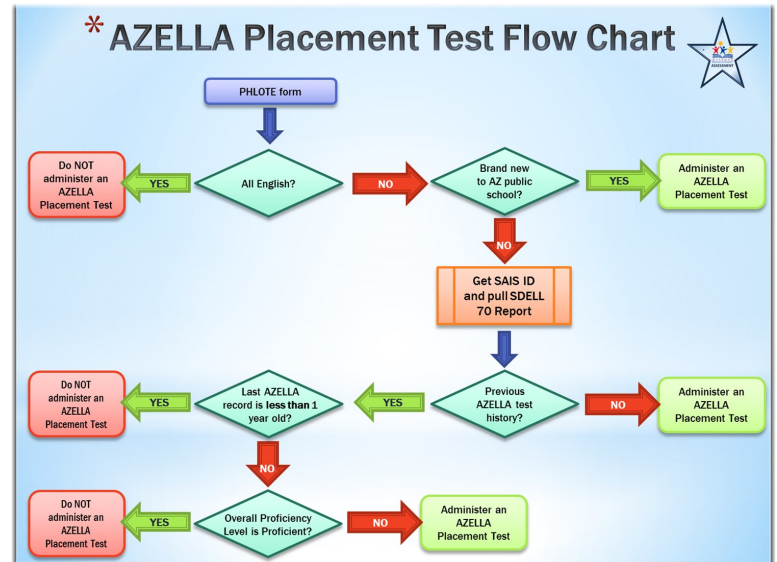
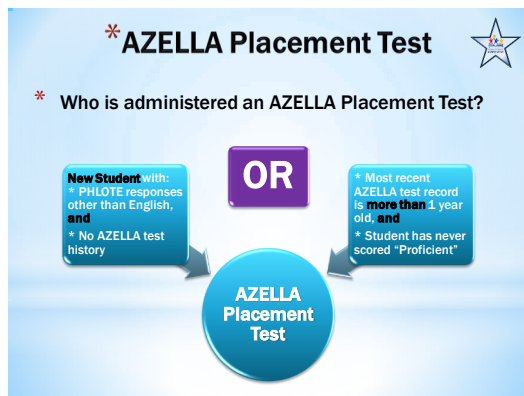
Timeline for Placement Testing

If the LEA is receiving Title III funds, new PHLOTE students will be assessed

- within 30 days of the beginning of the school year, or
- within 2 weeks of the student's enrollment in school

If the LEA is not receiving Title III funds, new PHLOTE students will be assessed

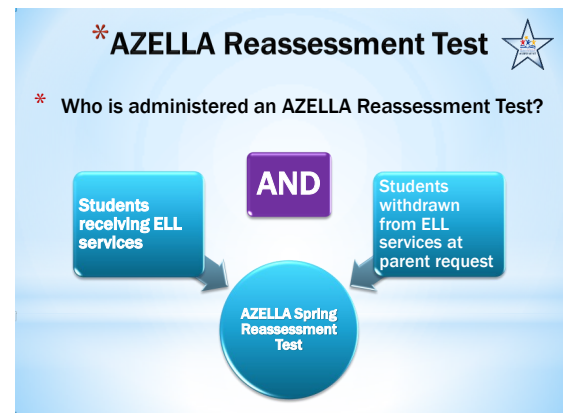
- within 60 days of the beginning of the school year, or
- within 30 school days of a student's enrollment in school, whichever is later.



Before a placement test is administered, LEAs should check the student's AZELLA test history because testing may have occurred at another school. This can be done by checking the SDELL 70 report.

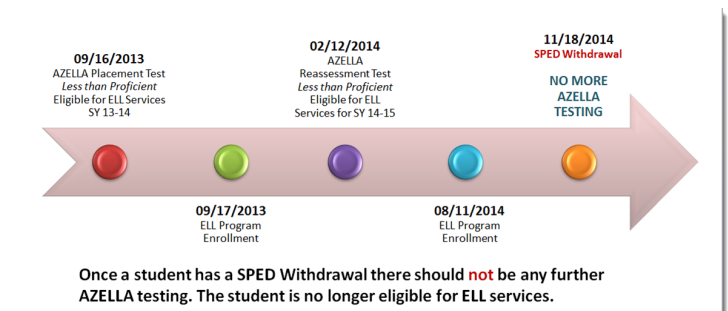
Reassessments

Students who are eligible for ELL services (have an Overall Proficiency Level of less than Proficient), as evidenced by their SDELL70 report are required to participate in the Spring AZELLA Reassessment. Students who have been withdrawn from ELL services by parent request are ALSO required to be reassessed. These students will continue to participate in the annual AZELLA Reassessment until they reach an Overall Proficiency Level of Proficient. Parents may withdraw students from services but cannot withdraw students from testing.



Students Withdrawn due to SPED Criteria

When a student has been "Withdrawn due to SPED Criteria" they no longer have a language need. In other words, the IEP Team has determined that the student scored less than proficient on the AZELLA because of SPED needs rather than a language need. Therefore, no further AZELLA testing is needed.



FAQs

How can I get my transfer students' test history report(s) for AzMERIT results similar to the student test history report which was available for AIMS since this student tested at a different school last year and AIR will not be sending me their results?

The accountability application in ADEConnect and/or Common Logon will not contain any AzMERIT data on October 6. Schools can access test history results on their currently enrolled students via AZDash.

Now that middle school students are not required to test on both the grade level assessment and the high school End Of Course test, can we still double test students if we choose?

This is a local decision which should be made based on the best interest of the student.

Do you know how ADE will use the test scores for students who take both the grade level and an End of Course?

No. Not at this time.

With the AIMS test and letter grade calculation, students were counted if they were enrolled in a school within the first 10 days and then continuously enrolled until the test date. Will that same criteria be used with AzMERIT? Where can I find the documentation?

There is no updated definition or guidance on "Full Academic Year" based on the new assessment at this time. We will disseminate this information as soon as it has been established/finalized; the ADE and our technical advisory group will review potential implications of the new assessment on the previous definition in the next few weeks.

Who tests a student when they finish a class in one District but are enrolled somewhere else during the test dates?

The student's test record must match the school where they were enrolled at the time of testing regardless of where they completed the actual course. However, ADE can validate enrollment records for students who have multiple enrollments during the school year.